From:	Jay Field
To:	Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc:	Burt Shephard/R10/USEPA/US@EPA; Chip Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA; Joe Goulet/R10/USEPA/US@EPA; rgensemer@parametrix.com; Robert Neely
Subject:	Re: Bioassay Interpretation at Portland Harbor
Date:	06/08/2009 12:25 PM
Attachments:	PH_ToxRef_090608.xls

Eric,
attached is a file including control-adjusted values, significance, and tox level classification for the samples. As I mentioned previously, I did not take statistical significance into account. one sample with maximum tox level classification of 2 is affected (ie, samples that classify as level 2 for the endpoint but are not statistically significant and no other endpoint would classify >= 2). there are a number of such samples for tox level = 1. If those samples are an issue, we should ask LWG for a determination of statistical power (for Round 2, LWG classified samples as not significant, significant, or indeterminate).
Jay

Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov wrote:
> I agree. The message I left with John this morning was to figure out
> what information we should exchange (us to them, them to us) to
> facilitate this discussion. Can you could start to pull together a
> similar package for the LWG?
>
> Thanks, Eric
>
>
>
> Jay Field
> <Jay.Field@noaa.
> gov> To
> Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
> 06/08/2009 11:03 cc
> AM Burt Shephard/R10/USEPA/US@EPA,
> rgensemer@parametrix.com, Joe
> Goulet/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Chip
> Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
> Subject
> Re: Bioassay Interpretation at
> Portland Harbor
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> Eric,
> before we talk with John, I think we should request a table from LWG
> with raw values, control-adjusted values, significance, and tox level
> classification. Without knowing what the discrepancies are, I'm not
> sure what we would accomplish by having a discussion. Also, I would
> like some more clarification on item #3, calculation of hit level. We
> used the reference envelope value (REV) and 90%, 80%, and 70% of that
> value to determine the thresholds. (all values are control-adjusted
> values). this is the same as subtracting 10% of the REV from the REV,
> but avoids potential compounding rounding errors.
>
> I'm available most of this week except Thursday.
>
> Jay
>
> Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov wrote:
>
> At the AOPC meeting, it became apparent that our interpretation of
> the sediment bioassay results did not match the LWG's
> interpretation. I am interested in understanding the basis for
> this discrepancy. Based on my review of the data, the bioassay
> results match up with the bins that we established in Table RE-2
> in our March 31, 2009 direction to LWG (see previous email). Last
> week, I put in a call to John Toll to try to understand the LWG's
> interpretation. Although I did not speak directly with John, he
> left me a voice mail that described 3 possibilities for the
> discrepancy:
>
> 1) The raw response rates differ slightly - e.g., 15% vs. 17%.
> John does not know why this is the case.
> 2) Significance Testing. The LWG used the biostats software. He
> indicated that this is a complicated procedure but that the LWG
> followed the decision tree associated with the software package
> and did not make any choices that were inconsistent with the
> decision tree.
> 3) The calculation of the level of the hit (e.g., low, moderate
> or severe toxicity) based on a comparison to the reference
> envelope was based on an added 10% to the reference envelop
> opposed to multiplying by the reference envelope value by 1.1 or
> 1.2.

>
>   I would like to set up a time to discuss this sometime this week.
>   Please let me know when you might be available. I will work with
>   John to hopefully have some information that we can use to focus
>   the discussion.
>
>   Thanks, Eric,
>
>
> --
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